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ELEVENTH REPORT  
ON THE  
SANITARY CONDITION  
OF THE  
Urban District  
OF  
RICKMANSWORTH,

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST 1908,

BY

MARK SHARMAN,  
D.P.H., Scot.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

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1909.

BROWN & SON, Rickmansworth.

To

THE RICKMANSWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Eleventh Annual Report.

I am still doing my best to reduce the size of the Report and feel justified in so doing if only for one reason that the health of the District is distinctly satisfactory.

Allow me to again record the great obligation I am under to the Clerk and the Inspector of Nuisances for the assistance given in framing the Report and the ready help always afforded to me in carrying out the routine work. My thanks are also due to the Collector of Rates and the District Registrar of Births and Deaths for information of value which they have placed at my disposal.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

MARK SHARMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

RICKMANSWORTH,

March 23rd, 1909.

# REPORT.

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THE RICKMANSWORTH URBAN DISTRICT began its existence in April, 1898. It has been carved out of the old Civil Parish of Rickmansworth, which was one of the Parishes of the Watford Rural District.

The Urban District consists of the Town of Rickmansworth, the Hamlet of Batchworth, and the most populous parts of the Villages of Croxley Green and Mill End.

For the purposes of this Report, the District is divided into three localities, viz :—(1) Rickmansworth—including Batchworth, (2) Croxley Green, and (3) Mill End.

STATISTICS.—(see Tables I., II., IV. and V.)—The Rickmansworth Urban District contained a population by census in 1901 of 5,627 persons: the number estimated to the middle of 1908 is 6,545. The District comprises an area of 572 acres (of which 16 acres are water). The number of inhabited houses for 1908 is 1,375 giving an average density of population per house of 4·76 persons. The average number of persons per acre of dry land in the District is 11·77.

During the year 1908 fifty-five deaths have been registered in the Urban District of Rickmansworth to which must be added for statistical purposes four deaths which took place in Watford Union Infirmary, two deaths in the Hill End Asylum, three deaths in the Watford District Hospital, and one death outside the District, the total making sixty five.

On classifying all cases the death-rate for the year is 9·9.

It will be observed that the death-rate still remains low.

The age distribution was as follows :—

Under one year	...	...	...	16
At one year and under five	...	...	...	3
„ five years „ „ fifteen	...	...	...	3
„ fifteen „ „ twenty-five	...	...	...	5
„ twenty-five „ „ sixty-five...	...	...	...	20
„ sixty-five and upwards	...	...	...	18

It will be seen that 24·6% of the registered deaths occurred in children under one year of age and 27·7 of persons over 65 years of age.

The deaths occurring in the localities into which the District is divided for the purposes of this Report were as follows :—

Rickmansworth	...	...	...	24
Croxley Green	...	...	...	22
Mill End	...	...	...	19

The “yearly” death-rate per thousand being :—

Rickmansworth	...	...	...	6·7
Croxley Green	...	...	...	11·1
Mill End	...	...	...	18·9

It will be observed from the above figures that Rickmansworth has the lowest “annual death-rate” of the three localities which the Urban District contains.

BIRTHS—There were 169 births registered, giving the “yearly” birth-rate for the District as 25·8 per thousand, of these 89 were females and 80 males.

Taking the births in the three localities, the figures are :—

		Females.	Males.	Total.
Rickmansworth	...	47	42	89
Croxley Green	...	29	22	51
Mill End	... ..	13	16	29
		—	—	—
		89	80	169
		—	—	—

The “ yearly ” birth-rate being respectively 25·0, 25·7 and 28·9 per thousand. It is to be noted that among the registered births for the year there was one illegitimate birth in the locality of Croxley Green.

The birth-rate for the District is higher than that for the preceding year.

INFANTILE MORTALITY. — The deaths of Infants under one year were in the proportion of 94·7 to a thousand registered births for the whole District. Dividing up the District into the various localities the rates of infantile mortality are :—

Rickmansworth	...	...	...	67·4
Croxley Green	...	...	...	98·0
Mill End...	...	...	...	172·4

The loss of life amongst infants in Mill End deserves special notice again this year. Improper feeding and a general want of care in the up-bringing of the children are largely responsible for this mortality. No one can shut their eyes to the fact that proportionately there is a far greater wastage of life, and especially young life in this locality compared with the other two localities in the District. An endeavour should be made on the part of the Council to improve the existing conditions of Mill End.



PHYSICAL FEATURES.—As I have already dealt with this matter in previous Reports it is hardly necessary to go over the same ground again.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Five deaths have been registered during the year as due to Zymotic disease; these deaths were due to Diarrhœa. The “yearly” Zymotic death-rate is 0·76 per thousand.

Small Pox	...	...	...	...	0
Measles	...	...	...	...	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	0
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	0
Fevers	{	Typhus	...	...	0
		Enteric	...	...	0
		Other or doubtful	...	...	0
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	5
					<hr/> 5
					<hr/>

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—Two cases have been removed to the Hospital during the year, out of five cases notified.

DISINFECTION.—Bedding and such other articles as cannot be safely and efficiently disinfected at the patients' homes are removed by the Isolation Hospital Authority and dealt with by means of the Steam Disinfector, and then returned to the houses of the owners.

Fortunately for the inhabitants of the District the number of cases removed to the well-appointed Isolation Hospital has been very small. The Hospital Staff still continue to do devoted and excellent work.



BACTERIOLOGICAL ARRANGEMENTS. — At present Medical practitioners in the District are at liberty to send “throat specimens” to either the Lister Institute or to the Laboratory of the Watford Joint Isolation Hospital, at the expense of the Council, in order that they may be examined bacterially for the presence of the *Bacillus Diphtheriæ*.

EPIDEMIOLOGY (see Tables III. and IV.)—Since October, 1890, the District has been under the operation of the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, and during the period over which this Report extends 5 cases only have been notified as against 19 cases during the year 1907.

Small Pox	...	...	...	...	0
Diphtheria (and Membranous Croup)					3
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	1
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	0
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	0
					—
					5
					—

This gives a Notifiable Sickness-rate of 0·76 per thousand of the population ; an eminently satisfactory state of affairs.

VACCINATION.—Ten years’ experience of the working of the Vaccination Act of 1898 is now forthcoming. The following are the figures which relate to the Rickmansworth Urban and Rickmansworth Rural Districts.

Year.	Primary Vaccination.	Re-Vaccination.
1895	... 124 ...	—
1896	... 88 ...	—
1897	... 95 ...	—
*1898	... 71 ...	—
†1899	... 172 ...	—
1900	... 144 ...	3
1901	... 132 ...	121
1902	... 142 ...	783
1903	... 132 ...	28
1904	... 145 ...	18
1905	... 154 ...	8
1906	... 147 ...	20
1907	... 190 ...	19
1908	... 146 ...	41

\*The few cases of this year were undoubtedly partly due to Boards of Guardians and individuals waiting for the Act of 1898.

† Vaccination Act of 1898 in force.

SCARLET FEVER.—With regard to Scarlet Fever, it will be seen that one case has been notified for the year 1908, as against twelve during the previous year. The case, which was imported, came from the locality of Mill End, it was very severe being of the malignant type, but in the end made a good recovery.

DIPHTHERIA.—Three cases have been notified during the year 1908, as compared with four cases last year. No death has to be recorded from this disease during the current year.

In the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health, humanly speaking, the last case of Diphtheria notified during the year would have died had the child not received unfailing and devoted nursing at the Isolation Hospital during a prolonged and critical illness.

It is important that the public and the medical men practising in the district should know that Antitoxin is provided free to anyone who may be suffering from the disease; application need only be made at the Offices of the Urban District Council. The Medical Officer of Health wishes to draw particular attention to the fact that Antitoxin should be given early in the course of the disease (within two days if possible of the onset) if a successful issue is to be obtained.

DIARRHŒA.—The number of deaths from Diarrhœa since 1898 are as follows :—

1898	...	...	...	...	11
1899	...	...	...	...	6
1900	...	...	...	...	4
1901	...	...	...	...	1
1902	...	...	...	...	0
1903	...	...	...	..	3
1904	...	...	...	...	0
1905	...	...	...	...	0
1906	...	...	...	...	1
1907	...	...	...	...	0
1908	...	...	...	...	5

The Medical Officer of Health considers that the question of “flies”—more particularly “the common house fly,” of which there are several varieties—should be prominently brought forward. There can be no doubt that flies are the carriers of disease. Epidemics of Diarrhœa, especially amongst children, are closely associated with their presence. The breeding grounds of these pests are in accumulations of decaying vegetable and animal matter such as collections of manure and refuse generally. It is extremely important that all Sanitary Authorities should rigidly enforce the prompt removal of such accumulations, from

the proximity of dwellings or premises where food is stored for human consumption. Milk, which is such an “explosive fluid,” is extremely liable to contamination by the germs of disease. This important and common article of diet so largely used by all members of the community, whether rich or poor, young or old, sick or healthy, requires immense care in its collection, storage and distribution.

**PUERPERAL FEVER.**—No case has been notified during the year.

**ERYSIPELAS.**—Only one case was notified for the year 1908. Two cases were recorded during the year 1907.

**TUBERCULOUS DISEASES** (including Phthisis or Consumption). Eight deaths have occurred from these diseases during the year, five in Rickmansworth, two in Croxley Green, and one in the locality of Mill End. This gives a “yearly” death-rate for these diseases of 1·2 per thousand for the whole District.

The death-rate from Phthisis alone is 0·7 per thousand.

**CANCER.**—On investigating this disease five deaths have to be recorded, one from the locality of Rickmansworth, two from Croxley Green, and two from Mill End. The death-rate from this disease is therefore 0·7 per thousand living.

**RAINFALL.**—The Medical Officer of Health desires again to record his thanks to Mr. S. Ingleby Oddie for supplying details of the rainfall in the District during the year 1908.

**Rain Guage.**—Diameter of funnel, 5 inches; height of top above ground, 7 inches; above sea level, 250 feet.

	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches
Jan. ...	0·83 ...	2·52 ...	2·43 ...	1·10 ...	4·50 ...	0·87 ..	1·74
Feb. ...	1·29 ...	1·59 ...	3·28 ...	0·65 ...	2·44 ...	1·43 ...	1·40
March...	1·44 ...	2·52 ...	1·26 ...	2·80 ...	1·50 ...	1·01 ...	3·25
April ...	0·76 ...	3·10 ...	1·35 ...	1·60 ...	0·48 ...	2·89 ...	3·05
May ...	2·23 ..	1·91 ...	2·71 ...	0·63 ...	1·50 ...	2·08 ...	1·67
June ...	2·69 ...	5·73 ...	0·98 ...	3·95 ...	2·31 ...	1·78 ...	2·01
July ...	1·51 ...	3·81 ...	1·68 ...	1·12 ...	0·77 ...	2·31 ...	3·00
August...	4·88 ...	2·95 ...	2·01 ...	2·42 ...	1·26 ...	1·90 ...	3·23
Sept. ...	0·49 ...	1·62 ...	1·60 ...	1·12 ...	1·44 ...	0·54 ...	1·39
Oct. ...	1·76 ...	6·82 ...	1·45 ...	1·09 ...	5·11 ...	4·70 ...	2·89
Nov. ...	1·94 ...	1·60 ...	1·52 ...	2·54 ...	3·68 ...	2·53 ...	0·83
Dec. ...	1·15 ...	2·06 ...	2·08 ...	0·96 ...	2·29 ...	3·62 ...	2·14
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	20·97 ...	36·23 ...	22·35 ...	19·98 ...	27·78 ...	25·66 ...	26·60
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Mr. Oddie in his comments on the rainfall for 1908 remarks “that the year under observation is chiefly notable for the extraordinary fall of snow on April the twenty-third, which was four inches deep.”

WATER SUPPLY.—The District draws its water for drinking and domestic purposes from the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company’s mains, and deep wells with or without pumps.

The Company’s water—save for its hardness—is thoroughly good and absolutely free from organic pollution.



The number of new connections made during the last ten years with the Water Company's mains are as follows :—

1899, new connections made...	...	105
1900        „                „                ...	...	78
1901        „                „                ...	...	78
1902        „                „                ...	...	90
1903        „                „                ...	...	51
1904        „                „                ...	...	93
1905        „                „                ...	...	220
1906        „                „                ...	...	96
1907        „                „                ...	...	40
1908        „                „                ...	...	18

WATER ANALYSIS.—During the year one sample of water was sent for analysis, which was good.

The Medical Officer of Health has made an analysis of the water drawn from the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company's main passing through the High Street, with the following result :—

Colour	...	...	...	good.
Odour	...	...	...	none.
Turbidity	...	...	...	none.
Sediment	...	...	...	slight white powder (chalk.)
Microscopic Examination	...	...	...	nothing definite.
Residue on Evaporation	...	...	...	white (chalk.)
Chlorine	...	...	...	1·21 grains per gallon.
Total hardness	...	...	...	16·00 „ „
Permanent hardness	...	...	...	3·5 „ „
Nitrites	...	...	...	absent.
Nitrates	...	...	...	absent.
Oxygen absorbed	...	...	...	0·82 parts per million.
Free Ammonia or Saline	...	...	...	
Ammonia	...	...	...	0·0027 parts per million.
Albuminoid Ammonia or	...	...	...	
Organic Ammonia	...	...	...	0·0020 parts per million.

Once again, even at the risk of repetition, the following remarks must be emphasized this year. It is evident that this would be a really good, pure water were it not so hard. Hard water is distinctly bad for kettles and boilers, necessitating their constant cleaning and repair, which if postponed is liable to cause danger to householders by the possible bursting of the boiler. Every boiler in this district should be cleaned, that is, the incrustation of lime should be removed, at least once in every three months, if an effective heating of the water is desired. The crust which forms in boilers may be loose or hard, the former condition is the result of the deposit of salts, causing temporary hardness, the latter the result of salts causing permanent hardness. It is stated that one quarter of an inch of incrustation—which is a bad conductor of heat—produces waste of coal to the extent of 45 per cent. It has been calculated that one grain of chalk wastes 8 grains of soap, and hence arises the difficulty for washing purposes of the hard water such as is drawn from the deep chalk formations. Owing to the hardness much soap is needed for lathering.

It seems difficult to believe that a less hard water is not more beneficial to the health of the District than a very hard water.

**DRAINAGE.**—During the year 23 houses were connected with the sewers, making a total of 1,345 houses connected.

One of Webb's Patent Sewer Ventilating Lamps was erected during 1908 on the Chorleywood Road, no complaint as to the smell from the sewer in that neighbourhood has been received since its erection.

The Medical Officer of Health hopes that another lamp will be provided during the coming year so that in time the whole District will be ventilated by this excellent and efficient method.



The Sewerage Scheme continues to work satisfactorily.

SCAVENGING.—The Dust Carts used by the Contractor for this work are still without proper covers and only temporary measures are adopted to prevent refuse from being distributed in the streets, it is hoped that the Council may see its way to provide suitable vans for this work.

NUISANCES.—The very serious attention of the Council must be again drawn to the old standing nuisance existing at the corner of Bury Lane and the High Street, in the shape of the Urinal belonging to the “Cart and Horses” Public House. This nuisance has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the Council and steps should be taken to remedy it without further delay. So many and so serious were the complaints made by the inhabitants of the Town at the beginning of the year that the Medical Officer of Health requisitioned the help of the County Medical Officer of Health to impress upon the District Council the necessity and importance of at once grappling with the evil. Up to the time of writing nothing has been done in spite of endless official and unofficial negotiations on the part of those concerned. The question has now reached the stage when it will be the duty of the Medical Officer of Health to represent to the County Council the necessity of taking steps with a view to abating the nuisance, since it seems impossible to impress upon the Local Sanitary Authority the importance of dealing at once with a long standing grievance.

ROADS AND STREETS.—The Station Road path has been paved throughout and the Rectory Road path asphalted thus adding to the comfort of foot passengers. The tar-painted paths under the control of the Urban Council are in excellent condition thanks to the applications of extra coatings during the summer.

Ebury Road has been made up under the Private Street Works Act, 1892, and is now one of the best roads in the District ; Wharf Lane (a private road) badly needs attention and it is hoped that the Council may be able to put in force the provisions of the above Act next year.

During the year a practically unanimous petition was forwarded by the inhabitants of Rickmansworth to the County Surveyor requesting that some attempt should be made by the County Council (the road authority) to mitigate the dust nuisance in the town, the question was referred to the Urban District Council who decided to allow the matter to stand over for the present year. The Medical Officer of Health desires to impress upon the Council the importance of dealing with this dust question during the coming year.

HOUSES UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION.—The Closing Order obtained six years ago in reference to the Cottages known as Marble Arch still remains in force.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—These have have been regularly inspected.

UN SOUND FOOD.—Some complaints were received during the year as to the quality of fried fish supplied by certain fishmongers but as the complaints were made in the first instance to the Police and the fish complained of was not submitted to the Sanitary Inspector it was difficult to get at the facts. It was found, however, that some fish which had been left over from the previous day's frying had been served out in error. It is important to point out that all complaints of this nature should be made to the Sanitary Inspector so that prompt enquiries may be made.

In December a tradesman reported to the Inspector that a leg of pork which he had purchased for selling again was, in his opinion, suspicious; the Medical Officer of Health with the Inspector and a Veterinary Surgeon visited the premises. It was found that the disease was confined to the skin and the flesh was not affected in any way.

*Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.*—The Factories and Workshops in the District have been regularly inspected.

Workshops inspected during the year are as follows :—

Bakeries	...	...	...	...	10
Millinery and Dressmaking Establishments					12
Builders' and Plumbers' Shops	...			...	5
Wheelwrights' and Blacksmiths' Shops	...				4
Cycle-repairing Shops	...	...		...	3
Tailoring Shops	...		...	...	3
Boot Manufactories	...		...	...	4
Miscellaneous Workshops		...		...	5
				—	
					46
				—	

From returns received by the Inspector, it appears that two outworkers are employed in the District.

LEGISLATION DURING 1908.—Attention is drawn to the following Acts :—

*Vaccination Act, 1907.*—Statistics coming to hand point to the fact that the conscientious objector is taking full advantage of the facilities provided by the Legislature for avoiding vaccination. Time will prove whether recent legislation on this momentous question is wise or not.

*Notification of Births Act, 1907.*—The Council decided not to adopt this Act for the reasons stated in the last Annual Report.

*Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1907.*—The Medical Officer of Health is glad to note that the Council is taking the necessary steps to adopt Parts II., III. and IV. These provisions will be of the utmost benefit to the welfare of the inhabitants of the District and will give the Council much needed powers.

*Education (Administrative Provisions) Act, 1907.*—After careful consideration, on the advice of the County Medical Officer of Health the Local Education Authority decided to appoint as far as possible the District Medical Officers of Health as Assistant School Medical Officers. The work is now in full swing in the County of Hertfordshire. As far as this District is concerned all the work required by the Education Authority for the current year has been completed. The sanitary condition of the Schools is so far satisfactory but this question will be more closely investigated during the year 1909.

A Summary of the Report required by the Chief School Medical Officer of the Assistant School Medical Officer for this District seems desirable so that the Rickmansworth Urban District Council may be informed as to work which has been carried out in this direction during the year 1908. The School Medical Officer reports that he “had the assistance of the teachers for about twenty-two hours during his inspections and the work of the Schools seems to have been but little disorganized thereby. Two visits were paid to the Boys’ Department of the Rickmansworth School, and one visit to the Girls’ and Infants’ Departments respectively. One visit was made to the Boys’, Girls’ and Infants’ Departments respectively, of the Croxley Green Schools. The



“Mixed” and Infants’ Departments of the Mill End School received one visit each. The average time taken per inspection was about six minutes, some cases requiring four, five and sometimes ten minutes. The time spent in making the arrangements for inspection was considerable, but no trouble was spared to accomplish harmonious working for all concerned. The time occupied in “travelling” to the various Schools was, respectively, Rickmansworth about one hour, Croxley Green about three hours, Mill End about three-quarters of an hour. The District Nurses have, I believe, during 1908 taken several children suffering from Adenoids at the request of the Managers or Doctors to London Hospitals for treatment, under what conditions these arrangements were made I have but little information. One, mentally deficient, was sent to a special School at Hillingdon, near Uxbridge.” The Assistant School Medical Officer further observes “a few comments may be useful as to this work in the Rickmansworth Urban District. First and foremost he emphasizes the valuable assistance and hearty co-operation received from all the teachers in the District. He looks forward to the year 1909 with pleasure and does not fear the time and trouble likely to be expended, feeling that again he will have the Teachers at his back. One question is worthy of notice and careful consideration by the Education Authority—that is—the blind, deaf, mentally or physical defective and epileptic children. At present there seems to be some overlapping in the duties and powers of the Education Authority and the Local Education Committee. The Assistant School Medical Officer would be glad to have the ground cleared and know exactly the relations of the above bodies as to this question and to one another.”

*Anthrax Order 1899 and 1907 and Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, Glanders, Farcy and Hydrophobia.*—The Local Government Board are prepared to favourably consider

the addition of these diseases in the main to the Notification List. This suggestion, in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health, is worthy of serious attention by the Urban District Council.

*Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1908.*—By this enactment cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (Consumption) occurring either in Poor Law Institutions or cases dealt with by the Poor Law District Medical Officer as such are notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health of the Sanitary District. In other words “Consumption” is made a “notifiable disease” when it occurs amongst those receiving Poor Law Medical Relief. It may be that this legislation forecasts the compulsory notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (Consumption) generally throughout the country. From a health point of view this is desirable, as Consumption is undoubtedly an infective disorder and communicable from man to man. This Regulation comes into force on the first of January, 1909.

TABLE I.

**Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1908 and previous years.  
Rickmansworth Urban.**

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the Dis't	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the Dis't	Nett. Deaths at all ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.					Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1891.	4769†	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Half- Year } 1898.	5780	91	31·4	12	131·8	36	12·1	—	—	—	35	12·0
1899.	5885	160	27·2	17	106·2	57	10·0	—	—	2	59	10·0
1900.	5550	171	30·8	16	93·5	51	9·1	—	—	3	54	9·7
1901.	5640	155	27·4	16	103·2	56	9·9	—	—	5	61	10·8
1902.	5983	152	25·3	16	105·2	78	13·0	—	—	10	88	14·6
1903.	6155	163	27·3	19	113·1	61	9·9	—	—	10	71	11·5
1904.	6245	157	25·1	10	63·7	58	9·3	—	—	6	64	10·2
1905.	6430	154	23·9	13	116·8	56	8·7	—	—	15	71	11·0
1906.	6494	174	26·8	12	69·0	58	8·9	—	—	14	72	11·1
1907.	6516	162	24·8	14	86·4	51	7·8	—	—	19	70	10·7
Aver- ages for years 98-1907	6068	162	27	16	98·9	59	9·8	—	—	9	68	11·1
1908	6545	169	25·8	16	94·7	55	8·4	—	—	10	65	9·9

† No other data available.

\* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Total population of all ages, 5627	} At Census of 1901.
Number of inhabited houses, 1181	
Average number of persons per house, 4·76	

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 556.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District :—

Watford Union Workhouse

Watford District Joint Isolation Hospital

Watford District Cottage Hospital.

Hill End Asylum, St. Albans.



TABLE II.

**Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1908 and previous years.  
Rickmansworth Urban District.**

Names of Localities		Rickmansworth.				Croxley Green.				Mill End.			
Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	
1898 Half-Year }	3145	49	16	4	1850	34	15	6	785	8	4	2	
1899.	3200	76	33	8	1895	56	20	6	790	23	6	3	
1900.	3000	87	30	8	1750	56	16	4	800	23	8	4	
1901.	3040	82	36	10	1790	46	17	3	810	27	8	3	
1902.	3204	82	39	6	1834	43	25	5	950	27	14	5	
1903.	3230	87	36	8	1975	58	20	6	950	23	15	5	
1904.	3285	84	35	4	1970	42	20	2	990	31	9	4	
1905.	3410	73	34	7	1990	48	24	4	1030	33	13	7	
1906.	3532	77	39	4	1962	62	20	5	1000	35	13	3	
1907.	3551	84	40	2	1975	47	19	7	990	31	11	5	
Averages of Years 1898 to 1907.	3259	82	36	6	1899	52	21	5	909	28	11	4	
1908.	3561	89	24	6	1980	51	22	5	1004	29	19	5	

**TABLE III.**  
**Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the 1908,**  
**Rickmansworth Urban District.**

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in Whole District.							Total Cases notified in each Locality.			No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each Locality.		
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Rickmansworth.	Croxley Green.	Mill End.	Rickmansworth.	Croxley Green.	Mill End.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.						
Small-pox ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	3	—	1	2	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	—
Membranous croup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever ... ..	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Typhus fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Continued fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ... ..	5	—	1	3	—	—	1	3	1	1	1	—	1

Isolation Hospital: Watford Joint District Isolation Hospital. Situated in the Watford Urban District.

TABLE IV.

**Cause of, and Ages at Death, during Year 1908, of Residents  
belonging to localities whether occurring in or beyond  
the Rickmansworth Urban District.**

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages.							Deaths in or belonging to Localities at all Ages.			Deaths in Public Insti- tutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Rickmansw'rth	Croxley Green.	Mill End.	
Small-pox ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping-cough... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and mem- branous croup ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Croup ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fever {	Typhus ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Enteric ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Other continued	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Epidemic influenza ...	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—
Cholera ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhœa ... ..	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—
Enteritis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other septic diseases ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Phthisis (Pulmonary } Tuberculosis)	5	—	—	—	3	2	—	3	1	1	—
Other tubercular diseases	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
Cancer,malignant disease	5	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	2	2	—
Bronchitis ... ..	11	2	1	—	—	4	4	4	6	1	—
Pneumonia ... ..	4	1	2	—	—	1	—	2	2	—	—
Pleurisy ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other diseases of Res- piratory organs ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Alcoholism } Cirrhosis of liver }	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Venereal diseases... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature birth ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diseases and accidents of parturition ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heart diseases ... ..	7	—	—	1	1	3	2	2	1	4	—
Accidents ... ..	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Suicides ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All other causes ... ..	19	5	—	—	1	4	9	8	5	6	—
All causes ... ..	65	16	3	3	5	20	18	24	22	19	—



TABLE V.  
**Infantile Mortality during the Year 1908.**  
**Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under**  
**One Year of Age.**  
**Rickmansworth Urban District.**

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One year.
<b>All Causes</b>	Certified ...	...	...	2	—	1	—	3	5	—	2	1	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	16
	Uncertified ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Infectious Diseases.	Small Pox ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Chicken-pox ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Measles ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Diphtheria: Croup ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoeal Diseases.	Whooping Cough ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Diarrhoea, all forms ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	5
	Enteritis (not Tuberculous)	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wasting Diseases.	Gastritis, Gastro-Intestinal Catarrh	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Premature Birth ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Congenital Defects ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Injury at Birth ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Want of Breast-milk ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous Diseases.	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
	Tuberculous Meningitis ...	...	...	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
	Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Erysipelas ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Syphilis ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Rickets ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Convulsions ...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	Bronchitis ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	Laryngitis ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Pneumonia ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Suffocation, overlaying	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Other causes ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
				2	—	1	—	3	5	—	2	1	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	16

Births in the year } Legitimate—168.  
 } illegitimate—1.  
 Population estimated to middle of 1908—6545.  
 Deaths from all causes at all ages—65.

# VI

## RICKMANSWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

### INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

#### Sanitary Work completed In the Year 1908.

Total No. of Complaints received	...	...	...	42
„ „ Houses and premises visited	...	...	...	259
Houses cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	7
Notices served	...	...	...	10
Privy or sink cesspools emptied	...	...	...	—
Accumulations of offensive matter removed	...	...	...	7
House Drains—Repaired, cleansed, trapped, &c. (not including Houses newly drained)	...	...	...	9
Smoke test applied	...	...	...	3
Houses connected with Sewers	...	...	...	23
Water Supply—Samples for Analysis	...	...	...	0
Well closed	...	...	...	0
Houses connected with mains	...	...	...	18
House refusal removal—Complaints received and attended to	...	...	...	27
Infectious Disease—Patients removed to Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	2
Houses inspected	...	...	...	5
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	4
Bedding, &c., removed to steam disinfectors	...	...	...	4
Schools—Visits made	...	...	...	Frequent
Bakehouses—No. on Register	...	10	...	
Dairies and Cowsheds—No. on Register	...	17	...	
Slaughter Houses—No. on Register	...	7	...	
New Buildings—Plans passed	...	...	...	11
Canal Boats Act, 1877 and 1884—No. of boats inspected	...	...	...	50
No. of Contraventions	{ Absence of Certificate ... 2 } { Boats not marked ... 1 } { No water vessel provided ... 1 }			4

## VII

### SUMMARY OF WORK

Done through the Sanitary Inspector in the Urban Sanitary District of Rickmansworth during the year ended December 31st, 1908, as required by the Hertfordshire County Council.

	Total No. for year.	Result of Inspection, &c.
1. Complaints received ... ..	42	{ in 4 instances no nuisance existed at the time of visit.
2. Nuisances detected without complaint ... ..	20	
3. Nuisances abated ... ..	57	
4. Notices served ... ..	10	
5. Summonses taken out ... ..	—	
6. Convictions ... ..	—	
7. Cottages inspected ... ..	15	
8. Lodging-houses inspected ... ..	—	
9. Slaughter-houses inspected ... ..	7	on Register } Frequent
10. Bakehouses inspected ... ..	10	
11. Dairies and Milkshops inspected ... ..	10	
12. Cowsheds inspected ... ..	7	
13. Workshops inspected ... ..	46	} Inspections.
14. Filthy houses cleansed, sec. 46 Public Health Act, 1875 ... ..	8	
15. Houses disinfected ... ..	4	
16. Overcrowding abated ... ..	4	
17. Houses placed in habitable repair ... ..	—	
18. Houses closed.. ... ..	—	
19. Houses erected or re-built for which Water "Certificates" were applied	—	
20. "Certificates" granted ... ..	—	
21. " " deferred ... ..	—	
22. Wells sunk, or improved supplies of water afforded ... ..	—	
23. Wells cleansed or repaired ... ..	—	
24. Wells closed ... ..	—	
25. Houses connected with sewers ... ..	23	
26. " " with water mains ... ..	18	
27. Earth pail or improved privies constructed or existing Privies altered	—	
28. Privies & W.C.'s repaired; W.C.'s supplied with water ... ..	—	
29. Cisterns cleaned, repaired or covered	—	
30. Animals improperly kept ... ..	4	
31. Samples of water taken for Analysis	—	
32. Compensation paid for destruction of infected bedding ... ..	—	
33. Seizure of unsound Meat, &c. ... ..	—	

(Signed) ALBERT FREEMAN.





